

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of forming a head assembly comprising:
2 providing a base member;
3 forming a plurality of head components upon the base member
4 individually adapted to communicate information relative to media;
5 providing a plurality of component regions adjacent respective ones of the
6 head components and a path of travel of the media; and
7 providing a support region intermediate adjacent ones of the head
8 components and positioned to support the media moving along the path of travel,
9 the support region comprising a material different than a material of the component
10 regions.

1 2. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the providing the
2 support region comprises providing the support region comprising a material having
3 a hardness greater than a material of the component regions.

1 3. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the providing the
2 support region comprises providing the support region comprising a material having
3 a greater resistance to wear than a material of the component regions.

1 4. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the forming
2 comprises forming the head components to individually comprise a read element
3 and a write element.

1 5. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the forming
2 comprises forming the head components to communicate using Linear Tape Open
3 technology.

1 6. The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising
2 providing an insulating layer and wherein the providing the component regions
3 comprises removing portions of the insulating layer to form the component regions.

1 7. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the providing the
2 support region comprises forming the support region upon a cover member and
3 placing the cover member adjacent the base member.

1 8. The method in accordance with claim 7 wherein the forming the
2 support region upon the cover member comprises removing portions of the cover
3 member.

1 9. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the providing the
2 support region comprises depositing support region material over the base member.

1 10. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the providing the
2 base member comprises providing a wafer substrate.

1 11. The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the forming
2 comprises forming head components individually configured to communicate digital
3 information relative to the media comprising a magnetic tape.

1 12. A head assembly configured to communicate information relative
2 to media comprising:
3 a base member; and
4 a head member adjacent the base member and comprising:
5 a plurality of head components adjacent a path of travel of media
6 and adapted to communicate information relative to the media;
7 a plurality of component regions adjacent the path of travel of the
8 media and respective ones of the head components; and
9 a support region intermediate adjacent ones of the head
10 components and positioned to support media moving along the path of travel, the
11 support region comprising a material different than a material of the component
12 regions.

1 13. The assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the support
2 region material has a hardness greater than the material of the component regions.

1 14. The assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the support
2 region material has a greater resistance to wear than the material of the component
3 regions.

1 15. The assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the head
2 components individually comprise a read element and a write element.

1 16. The assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the support
2 region comprises a portion of a cover member.

1 17. The assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the head
2 components are configured to communicate information relative to the media using
3 Linear Tape Open technology.

1 18. The assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the base
2 member comprises a wafer substrate.

1 19. The assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the head
2 components are individually configured to communicate digital information relative
3 to the media comprising a magnetic tape.

1 20. A linear tape drive configured to communicate information relative
2 to a tape comprising:
3 an input/output adapted to couple with an external device;
4 a cartridge receiving assembly adapted to receive a cartridge including a
5 tape; and
6 a head assembly positioned adjacent a path of travel of the tape, the
7 head assembly comprising:
8 a base member;
9 a cover member adjacent the base member; and
10 a head member intermediate the base member and the cover
11 member and comprising:
12 a plurality of head components configured to communicate
13 information relative to the tape including reading information from the tape and
14 writing information to the tape;
15 a plurality of component regions adjacent the path of travel
16 of the tape and respective ones of the head components; and
17 a support region intermediate adjacent ones of the head
18 components and positioned to support a tape moving along the path of travel, the
19 support region comprising a material having a hardness greater than a material of
20 the component regions.